

only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.--

Please add the following paragraph after the heading beginning on page 6, line 28:

--The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description given hereinbelow and the accompanying drawings which are given by way of illustration only, and thus are not limitative of the present invention, and wherein:--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 33, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--On the other hand, a chimney 10 is located right under the tobacco band 1. As mentioned later, the shredded tobacco in the hopper 5 is introduced into the chimney 10 and blown up in the chimney 10 toward the tobacco band 1. Accordingly, the blown-up shredded tobacco is attracted in a layer to the lower surface of the tobacco band 1, whereupon a shredded tobacco layer (not shown) is formed on the tobacco band 1. As seen from FIG. 1, the respective chimneys 10 of the two tobacco feeders 4 are located adjacent to each other in the traveling direction of the tobacco band 1.--